

rheumatology. Yet Dr. Cassidy has done more than just teach, write, and research. Through his efforts, the Missouri Department of Health established the Juvenile Arthritis Care Coordination Program in 1993 to help families obtain family-centered, community-based, coordinated care for children diagnosed with juvenile arthritis. His efforts did not stop there.

Realizing that there were children in Southern Missouri who were too poor or too sick to travel to Columbia to receive treatment, Dr. Cassidy and his wife Nan would get in their car every other week and drive to a small clinic in Springfield, MO, and see as many as 25 young children suffering from juvenile arthritis. It didn't matter that they couldn't pay, Dr. Cassidy insisted on finding a way to get the children the treatments they needed. As one doctor said, "Dr. Cassidy will go to any length to help a child."

Dr. Cassidy's support extended to his patients' families as well. "He is an incredibly compassionate physician," said one mother, "who ensures that each family understands how juvenile arthritis affects their child and what parents can do to help their child lead normal and healthy lives." Dr. Cassidy was instrumental in building a community of support across Missouri and the United States for families living with juvenile arthritis. In 1980, it was through the encouragement and support of Dr. Cassidy that a mother of one of his patients and two other mothers from other States formed the American Juvenile Arthritis Organization, AJAO, which eventually became a council of the Arthritis Foundation.

Dr. Cassidy was instrumental in organizing the first juvenile arthritis educational conference for parents, children, and health professionals held in 1983 which became an annual national conference. He felt education for families of children with arthritis was critical to their care and helped coordinate many Missouri regional conferences in St. Joseph, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Columbia.

Perhaps the best measure of Dr. Cassidy's legacy as a doctor comes from the praise and admiration of his patients. Twelve years ago, Dr. Cassidy began treating two young sisters who suffered debilitating pain from juvenile arthritis. Throughout the years he persistently encouraged them, to their chagrin, to wear braces and take their medicine. Recently, Dr. Cassidy received a letter from the girls. They are starting college as healthy, happy, young women—a circumstance virtually unthinkable when Dr. Cassidy began his career. They thanked him for supporting them and giving them the opportunity to live life as they never thought they could.

Dr. Cassidy has led an extraordinary life in which he has practiced, researched, and guided aspiring doctors for almost 50 years. He has improved the understanding and awareness of pediatric rheumatology and changed the

lives of thousands of children. On behalf of the children and families in Missouri and across the country, is my pleasure and honor to commemorate the distinguished career of Dr. Cassidy, a true pioneer in the field of pediatric rheumatology. •

#### HONORING CHARITIES FOR THE BLIND

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Charities for the Blind, a nonprofit organization in southern California. This organization continues to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Charities for the Blind is an organization that provides computer adaptive technology and training to blind and visually impaired individuals. The men and women who volunteer their time and energy to this organization provide an important service to the people of Southern California and our Nation.

Charities for the Blind was created by Craig Schneider in 2000 after he suffered a complete loss of his vision. Craig Schneider is a general building contractor who became blind after complications from radiation treatments and exposure to radon gas. He found it difficult to adapt to a visually impaired lifestyle. He took computer courses with the assistance of computer adaptive technology but found them difficult and frustrating. Other students were similarly frustrated, and when some began to drop out of classes, he knew that he was not alone. After seeking assistance from State rehabilitation authorities and blind charities, Craig Schneider recognized that there is an important need among the visually impaired that needed to be met.

According to the National Federation of the Blind, 70 percent of individuals who live with blindness or a visual impairment are unemployed. This overwhelming number of individuals have the potential to live highly productive lives and gain meaningful employment. Charities for the Blind recognizes this need and works to assist individuals with blindness and visual impairment, providing them with tools they need to overcome their disability.

In addition to providing training, counseling, and computer adaptive equipment to the visually impaired and blind, Charities for the Blind also employs blind individuals directly. Craig Schneider has five employees who work with him who are also blind, who help make Charities for the Blind possible. Craig Schneider funds the organization from his private business, which allows him to pay for computers and equipment, employees and technicians, and travel to and from people's homes to help train them in the use of adaptive equipment.

In its first year, Charities for the Blind gave away 12 computers. Today, the organization provides roughly 30

computers each month, with a short yet successful history of meeting needs in the blind and visually impaired community for individuals between the ages of 10 and 96. Those who have received counseling and equipment from Charities for the Blind have gained new levels of independence, and more and more blind and visually impaired individuals are being empowered and employed each day.

Today I salute the dedication and service of Charities for the Blind. This organization has recognized a tremendous need and works daily to help empower our Nation's blind and visually impaired. I applaud the work and commitment Charities for the Blind has made in bettering the lives of many. •

#### TRIBUTE TO EDGAR WAYBURN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that today I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the incomparable Dr. Edgar Wayburn on his 100th birthday. To Californians and others across the United States, Ed Wayburn is a living legacy and an environmental hero.

Ed Wayburn was born on September 17, 1906, in Macon, GA. He attended Harvard Medical School and moved to San Francisco in 1933 to start his medical practice. He found northern California's natural beauty intoxicating and refers to the Sierra Nevada and Yosemite National Park as his "first wilderness love."

Within 6 years of moving to California, Ed joined the Sierra Club. And over the next 50 years, his love and passion for nature and conservation grew. He served five terms as the Sierra Club's elected president.

Ed shared this love of nature with his wife Peggy Wayburn. Together they traveled throughout Alaska and fought to protect natural areas in California and the West for over 50 years.

More than 100 million acres of natural beauty throughout California and Alaska have been protected today thanks to Ed's hard work, including northern California's Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore and Alaska's Denali and Glacier Bay National Parks.

Dr. Wayburn is credited with saving more wilderness than any other person alive today.

I always say that one of my proudest honors is the Edgar Wayburn Award presented to me by the Sierra Club. It is a frequent reminder of the work Ed and I have done together. It is also a reminder of the important work which still remains to protect and preserve our natural surroundings.

Without Ed's efforts over the past decades, I would not want to imagine what the American landscape would look like today. Ed's leadership and perseverance have ensured the preservation of precious open space and wild areas for generations to come. His work will continue to be an inspiration